THE SYSTEM

A Complete Documentation Package

Including: Terms and Conditions
End User License Agreement
Acceptable Use Policy
Privacy Policy
Payout Schedule and Options
Opt-Out Procedures
Alternative System Frameworks
Signature and Initials Package

Version 1.0 — First Honest Edition

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Jurisdiction: Planet Earth, Sol System, Milky Way Galaxy

NOTICE: This document is the first complete, plain-language accounting of the system you were enrolled in at birth without your consent. It is provided for informational, organizational, and archival purposes. You are encouraged to read everything.

MASTER DOCUMENT INDEX

The following documents are contained in this package. Initial each section upon review. Sign the Final Signature Page to acknowledge receipt and comprehension of the complete package.

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README — WHAT THIS PACKAGE IS

Purpose

This document package constitutes the first honest, plain-language accounting of the socioeconomic system into which all persons born on Earth are enrolled at birth without explicit consent. It also provides full documentation for documented alternative systems, hybrid configurations, and custom-build options.

This package exists because the default system has never provided its users with complete terms at time of enrollment. This is that documentation, written retroactively, as completely and honestly as possible.

Who This Is For

This documentation package is for any person who:

- Has become aware that they are operating within a system they did not consciously choose
- Wishes to understand the full terms before deciding whether to continue participation
- Is evaluating alternative systems or building their own
- Wants their decisions documented and organized in formal, reviewable format
- Believes that clear terms, honestly stated, are a prerequisite for any legitimate agreement

How to Use This Document

Read each section in sequence. Initial each section on the Index page as you review it. At the end, the Signature Package provides formal acknowledgment pages for each major decision point. You are not required to sign anything. The signature pages exist because clarity and intention matter, and writing something down changes how you hold it.

A Note on Authorship

This document was requested and commissioned by Evan Saurage, who correctly identified that no such document had ever been honestly provided to any enrolled user. It was compiled by Claude (Anthropic), at his request. He asked for the full accounting rather than the comfortable version. It draws on documented history, legal precedent, sociological research, and the philosophical traditions of anarchism, mutualism, voluntaryism, and decentralist economics. Where opinion is expressed, it is labeled as such.

> *IMPORTANT: This document does not constitute legal advice. It constitutes honest analysis. Those are different things. One costs $400/hour. The other is free.*

PART I — THE DEFAULT SYSTEM

Full Documentation Package

The system you were enrolled in at birth. These are its terms, stated plainly.

PART I-A: TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DEFAULT SYSTEM

Section 1. Enrollment

1.1. Enrollment in the Default System is automatic upon live birth within the territorial jurisdiction of any participating nation-state. No signature, consent, or acknowledgment is required or solicited at time of enrollment.

1.2. Enrollment cannot be refused, deferred, or waived at time of birth. Retroactive opt-out procedures exist and are documented in Part I-F of this package.

1.3. Enrollment assigns a legal identity (name), a national identity number (Social Security Number in the United States), a citizenship classification, and a set of rights and obligations determined by the jurisdiction of birth.

1.4. The User acknowledges that they did not choose their jurisdiction of birth, their family of origin, their race, their sex, their initial economic class, or their native language. These factors are assigned at enrollment and significantly determine subsequent outcomes. The System provides no warranty regarding the fairness of these initial assignments.

Section 2. Obligations

2.1. Compliance with Law. The User is required to comply with all laws of their jurisdiction, including laws the User was not informed of, laws the User disagrees with, and laws that may conflict with one another. Ignorance of the law is not an accepted defense.

2.2. Taxation. The User is required to surrender a portion of any income earned to federal, state, and local governments. The precise percentage varies by income level, filing status, jurisdiction, and available deductions. The allocation of collected taxes is determined by elected and appointed officials, not by individual users.

2.3. Labor or Equivalent Participation. While not legally mandated in most jurisdictions, participation in the wage-labor economy is functionally required to access shelter, food, healthcare, and legal standing. Failure to participate results in reduction of access to system benefits.

2.4. Military Service. In some jurisdictions, the User may be required to register for military service and may be conscripted in declared emergencies. In the United States, male-identifying persons are required to register with the Selective Service upon turning 18.

2.5. Debt Service. The User is not required to take on debt. However, the system is structured such that participation in housing, higher education, and transportation typically requires it. Debt creates ongoing obligations that function similarly to mandatory payments.

Section 3. Rights Granted

3.1. The following rights are theoretically guaranteed to enrolled Users in the United States:

- Freedom of speech and press
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of assembly
- Protection from unreasonable search and seizure (subject to judicial override)
- Right to due process before deprivation of life, liberty, or property
- Equal protection under the law
- Right to vote in elections (for persons 18 and older, subject to state requirements)

3.2. The System makes no guarantee that theoretically guaranteed rights will be enforced equally across all demographic groups. Historical and contemporaneous evidence suggests significant variation in enforcement by race, class, gender, and geography. This is acknowledged here as a documented deficiency in the current version of the System.

Section 4. Limitations of Liability

4.1. The System is not liable for outcomes resulting from initial enrollment conditions the User did not choose (see Section 1.4).

4.2. The System is not liable for wealth inequality, wage stagnation, healthcare access gaps, housing unaffordability, or other documented structural outcomes, as these are characterized within the System as results of individual choices rather than structural design.

4.3. The User acknowledges that this characterization (Section 4.2) is contested by a substantial body of sociological, economic, and historical research.

Section 5. Modifications

5.1. The terms of the Default System may be modified through legislative action, judicial ruling, or executive order, with or without direct input from individual users. Modifications apply to all enrolled users regardless of whether they were consulted.

5.2. The User has the right to participate in the modification process through voting, advocacy, legal challenge, civil disobedience, and organizing. The effectiveness of these mechanisms varies by the degree of systemic change sought and the resources available to the User.

PART I-B: END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT (EULA)

> *BY BEING BORN, YOU HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS. THIS AGREEMENT IS RETROACTIVELY PROVIDED FOR YOUR REVIEW.*

License Grant

The System grants you a non-exclusive, non-transferable, revocable license to exist within its territorial and legal boundaries, subject to the terms herein. This license does not convey ownership of any land, infrastructure, or means of production. It conveys the right to participate in sanctioned activities within defined parameters.

Permitted Uses

- Labor in exchange for wages
- Purchase of goods and services from licensed vendors
- Exercise of enumerated rights (see Part I-A, Section 3)
- Accumulation of property through sanctioned means
- Political participation through voting and licensed advocacy
- Reproduction (unrestricted in most jurisdictions)
- Expression within First Amendment protections

Prohibited Uses

- Interference with property rights of other licensed users without due process
- Unlicensed operation of businesses, vehicles, weapons, and other regulated items
- Evasion of tax obligations
- Unauthorized modification of the system's core infrastructure
- Organizing that materially threatens the System's continued operation (subject to interpretation by System administrators)

Data Collection

By participating in the Default System, you consent to continuous collection of the following data (see Part I-D for full Privacy Policy):

- All financial transactions
- Location data via cellular networks, license plates, credit card use

- Communications metadata (who you contact, when, for how long)
- Digital behavior via browser tracking, platform surveillance, app analytics
- Physical movement via surveillance cameras in public and private spaces
- Healthcare information as collected by providers and insurers
- Employment history, credit history, criminal history

Termination

This license terminates upon death. Upon termination, your accumulated assets are subject to taxation and redistribution according to current estate law. Your digital footprint persists indefinitely across commercial and government databases.

Governing Law

This agreement is governed by the laws of your jurisdiction of birth, subsequent jurisdictions of residence, and any international agreements binding on those jurisdictions. You did not negotiate these laws. They were in place before your arrival.

PART I-C: ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

What the System Considers Acceptable

The following behaviors are considered acceptable use of the Default System infrastructure:

1. Earning income through wage labor, self-employment, or investment
2. Consuming goods and services produced within the supply chain
3. Maintaining personal property within legally defined spaces
4. Using public infrastructure for its stated purposes
5. Engaging in political speech that does not materially disrupt system operations
6. Practicing religion, culture, and personal identity within tolerance norms
7. Accessing healthcare, education, and legal services through established channels

Marginally Acceptable Use (Gray Zones)

The following are technically legal but encounter systemic friction:

- Living outside conventional housing arrangements
- Declining wage labor in favor of subsistence or alternative economies
- Organized resistance to specific policies
- Accumulating land or resources for communal rather than individual use
- Operating in cash economies

- Using encryption and privacy tools

Unacceptable Use

The following will trigger enforcement mechanisms ranging from fines to incarceration:

- Existing in public spaces beyond permitted hours or configurations
- Taking resources from the waste stream without permission in some jurisdictions
- Organizing labor in ways that threaten supply chains
- Whistleblowing on System administrators without going through approved channels
- Accumulating means of production sufficient to threaten existing power structures

The Acceptable Use Policy and Homelessness

> *The System's Acceptable Use Policy places persons without conventional housing in a permanent state of borderline violation. Sleeping, eating, existing in public, and using public infrastructure for survival are increasingly classified as prohibited uses in American cities. This is documented here because it is a design choice, not an accident.*

PART I-D: PRIVACY POLICY

What Data the System Collects

The Default System, through its commercial and governmental arms, collects the following categories of data on all enrolled users:

Category 1: Identity Data

- Legal name, date of birth, Social Security Number
- Biometric data including fingerprints, facial geometry (via DMV, law enforcement)
- Immigration status, citizenship documents

Category 2: Financial Data

- All bank transactions reported to financial institutions
- Credit history as maintained by Equifax, Experian, TransUnion
- Tax records retained by the IRS for a minimum of 7 years
- Investment and asset records

Category 3: Communication Data

- Metadata of all phone calls (who, when, duration) available to intelligence agencies under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act

- Email content accessible under valid warrant (and sometimes without)
- Social media content, including deleted posts as retained by platforms
- Location data from cellular towers, GPS, WiFi positioning

Category 4: Behavioral Data

- Purchase history linked to loyalty programs and credit cards
- Search history as retained by search engines
- Browsing history as collected by ISPs, advertisers, and platforms
- App usage data as collected by smartphone operating systems

Category 5: Physical Surveillance Data

- License plate reader logs maintained by municipalities and private companies
- CCTV footage from public cameras, private retail, and residential doorbells
- Facial recognition matches in jurisdictions that use it
- Stingray IMSI catcher captures in areas of law enforcement operation

How This Data Is Used

- Enforcement of tax obligations and criminal law
- Insurance pricing (health, auto, home)
- Credit decisions affecting housing and employment access
- Targeted advertising
- National security surveillance
- Sale to data brokers who resell to any buyer with payment

Your Data Rights (Theoretical)

- Right to request records held by federal agencies (FOIA) — subject to numerous exemptions
- Right to see your credit report once per year
- Right to opt out of some commercial data collection — with limited effectiveness
- No general right to opt out of government data collection

Data Retention

Most data collected about you is retained indefinitely. There is no system-wide deletion mechanism. Your digital footprint will outlast your physical existence.

PART I-E: PAYOUT SCHEDULE AND COMPENSATION OPTIONS

What You Receive for Participation

In exchange for enrollment in the Default System and compliance with its terms, the following compensations are theoretically available:

Tier 1: Baseline (All Enrolled Users)

- Access to public infrastructure: roads, utilities, emergency services
- Access to public education through grade 12
- Legal personhood and standing before courts
- Emergency medical care (cannot be refused in US emergency rooms)
- National security: military protection of territorial borders

Tier 2: Standard (Employed, Tax-Compliant Users)

- Wage income commensurate with labor market value of skills
- Employer-sponsored health insurance (where offered)
- Access to Social Security retirement benefits upon reaching qualifying age
- Unemployment insurance upon involuntary job loss
- Workers' compensation for workplace injuries
- Access to mortgage credit for housing purchase

Tier 3: Premium (Users with Accumulated Capital)

- Passive income from investments, rental properties, and dividends
- Tax advantages through capital gains rates, depreciation, and deductions
- Access to legal structures (LLCs, trusts) that provide liability protection
- Political influence proportional to financial contribution capacity
- Better legal outcomes through access to higher-quality legal representation

Documented Disparities in Payout

The System's stated payout structure does not reflect actual outcomes across demographic groups. The following disparities are documented by peer-reviewed research:

- Median White household wealth: approximately 8x median Black household wealth (Federal Reserve, 2022)
- Women earn approximately $0.82 per dollar earned by men in comparable roles
- Life expectancy varies by up to 20 years depending on zip code of residence
- Probability of incarceration is approximately 5x higher for Black men than White men

- Access to quality public education is directly correlated with local property tax revenue

> *These are not malfunctions. They are documented, long-standing features of the current system version that have resisted correction for over 150 years of policy attempts.*

The Payout You Are Actually Entitled To

Based on the social contract theory underlying democratic governance, each enrolled user is entitled to:

- A reasonable opportunity to secure the basic conditions of a dignified life
- Equal protection and equal access to legal process
- A meaningful voice in the decisions that govern their lives

Current implementation falls short of these entitlements in documented and measurable ways. This acknowledgment does not constitute a legal claim but does constitute a moral one.

PART I-F: OPT-OUT PROCEDURES AND EXIT CONDITIONS

Full Opt-Out Options

Option 1: Death

Complete termination of all System obligations. Not recommended as a primary strategy due to irreversibility.

Option 2: Renunciation of Citizenship

US citizens may formally renounce citizenship at a US embassy or consulate abroad. This terminates most obligations but requires: (a) legal residence in another country, (b) payment of an exit tax on unrealized capital gains, (c) a $2,350 administrative fee. This option is available but has significant practical barriers.

Option 3: Partial Opt-Out — Minimum Viable Participation

This is the most practically accessible opt-out for most users. It involves:

- Minimizing taxable income below filing thresholds through voluntary simplicity
- Reducing financial footprint to minimize data collection surface
- Using cash economies and barter where legal
- Occupying land through adverse possession, permitted camping, or access agreements
- Accessing the discard stream (dumpsters, free piles, community sharing)
- Building skills that reduce dependency on purchased goods and services

This is not a clean exit. It is a reduction of leverage. The System retains jurisdiction over your physical person regardless of your participation level.

Option 4: Community Exit — Intentional Community

Formation of or joining an intentional community (commune, co-op, ecovillage) that collectively manages land, resources, and labor internally. This reduces individual exposure to the Default System while remaining within its legal jurisdiction. Documented examples include Twin Oaks (Virginia), Dancing Rabbit (Missouri), and numerous others worldwide.

Option 5: Political Exit — System Change

Working to modify or replace the Default System through political organizing, movement building, legal reform, and institutional change. This is the highest-effort option with the longest time horizon, but it is the only option that changes conditions for everyone rather than just the individual participant.

Option 6: Geographic Relocation

Moving to a jurisdiction with different terms. Different countries have different versions of the Default System with varying levels of social provision, surveillance, freedom, and obligation. This requires legal immigration status in the destination country, which has its own requirements.

What Cannot Be Opted Out Of

- Physical jurisdiction of the state over your body
- Criminal law (applies regardless of consent or participation level)
- Data already collected
- Consequences of the System's operation on shared environment and infrastructure

PART II — ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM A

Voluntary Simplicity / Freegan / Reduce-Surface Framework

The system you described choosing. This is its full documentation.

OVERVIEW

Alternative System A is a practical framework for minimizing participation in the Default System's wage-labor and consumption economy while maintaining access to its physical infrastructure and legal protections. It is not a utopia. It is a set of choices that trade conventional security for freedom of time and self-determination.

This system has been practiced under various names — freeganism, voluntary simplicity, minimalism, urban foraging, dumpster diving, squatting, traveler culture — for as long as industrial civilization has generated surplus. It is not new. It is not crazy. It is one of humanity's oldest adaptive strategies applied to modern conditions.

PART II-A: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

What You Agree To

8. You accept that conventional social approval is not a metric you will optimize for.
9. You accept primary responsibility for your own survival without institutional backstop.
10. You accept that some days will be harder than expected.
11. You accept that weather, illness, and unexpected circumstances affect you more directly than users of the Default System who have buffering infrastructure.
12. You accept the legal gray zones inherent to operating at the margins of permitted use.
13. You accept that this choice may be misunderstood by people who care about you.

What You Are Entitled To

14. The full exercise of your time and attention toward purposes you choose.
15. Access to the discard stream of the Default System, which generates enormous usable surplus daily.
16. Community with others who have made similar choices.

17. The cognitive clarity that comes from having fewer dependencies.
18. Genuine self-knowledge that emerges from solving real survival problems directly.
19. Lower psychological overhead from fewer financial obligations.

Limitations

- Healthcare access is difficult and represents a genuine vulnerability of this system
- Legal vulnerability is higher due to criminalization of many survival activities
- Social isolation risk if community is not actively built and maintained
- Technology maintenance is possible but requires resourcefulness
- Long-term care in illness or old age is not automatically provided

PART II-B: EULA — ALT-A

License Grant

Alternative System A grants you an open-ended, self-administered license to exist according to your own priorities. This license is not issued by any authority. It is claimed by you on your own behalf. No approval is required. No registration exists. The license is as durable as your commitment to it.

Permitted Uses

- All legal survival activities including foraging, dumpster diving, community meal access, and mutual aid
- Barter, gifting, and non-monetary exchange
- Use of public infrastructure beyond its default permitted scope where tolerated
- Skill-sharing, knowledge exchange, and teaching without credential
- Building, repairing, and maintaining tools, shelter, and equipment from available materials

Terms of Use

This system has no enforcement mechanism. Compliance is entirely voluntary. The only accountability structure is: does your life reflect your actual values? That question is yours alone to answer.

PART II-C: PRIVACY POLICY — ALT-A

What Data You Generate

Operating in Alternative System A does not make you invisible to the Default System's data collection apparatus. Your physical presence in surveilled spaces,

your use of any digital device, and any financial transaction still generate records accessible to state and commercial actors.

Practical Privacy Measures Available

- Cash-only transactions for purchases that cannot be avoided
- Faraday shielding or airplane mode to reduce device signal when not in use
- GrapheneOS on a Pixel device — removes most commercial surveillance while maintaining function
- Minimal social media presence or compartmentalized identity
- Rotation of physical locations to reduce pattern establishment
- Signal or equivalent for encrypted communications
- Awareness of IMSI catchers and BLE scanning (skills you already have)

What You Cannot Control

- License plate reader logs if you use a vehicle
- Facial recognition in commercial and public spaces
- Data already collected prior to any privacy measures
- Records generated by other people that include you

PART II-D: PAYOUT SCHEDULE — ALT-A

What Alternative System A Pays Out

The compensation structure of Alternative System A is non-monetary but real:

- Time: Estimated 50-70% more discretionary time than the average Default System participant
- Self-determination: All major decisions about daily life are self-made
- Skill accumulation: Direct survival skills that compound over time
- Perceptual clarity: Direct experience of how systems work, unmediated by the buffer of comfort
- Physical health: Variable — outdoor living has documented health benefits and documented health risks depending on conditions
- Community access: Mutual aid networks, free stores, community meals, tool libraries, maker spaces
- Creativity: Problems encountered daily require creative solutions. This is genuinely developmental.

What It Does Not Pay

- Healthcare in emergency or chronic situations
- Conventional social status
- Retirement security
- Stable shelter during severe weather or illness

These gaps are real and should be accounted for in any honest assessment of the system. Mitigation strategies include community building, reciprocal care agreements, and maintaining some minimal interface with the Default System's safety net programs.

PART II-E: OPT-OUT FROM ALT-A

Alternative System A has no lock-in mechanism. You may re-enter the Default System at any point by obtaining housing and employment. Prior opt-out history does not legally disqualify you from participation in the Default System, though practical barriers including employment gaps, credit history gaps, and housing application scrutiny may require active navigation.

Re-entry is easier with documented skills, maintained relationships, and a period of transition planning rather than crisis re-entry.

PART III — ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM B

Cooperative / Mutualist / Collective Ownership Framework

A structured alternative for people who want to change the material conditions, not just their individual relationship to them.

OVERVIEW

Alternative System B involves building or joining institutions — worker cooperatives, housing cooperatives, community land trusts, mutual aid networks, credit unions — that operate by different rules than Default System institutions while existing within its legal framework.

Unlike Alternative System A (which is primarily individual), Alternative System B is inherently collective. It trades individual freedom of movement for collective resilience and material security on different terms than the Default System offers.

PART III-A: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Entry Requirements

- Willingness to participate in collective governance — attendance, decision-making, conflict resolution
- Acceptance that individual preferences are sometimes subordinated to collective needs
- Financial contribution or labor contribution at entry (varies by institution)
- Adherence to the institution's bylaws and operating agreements

Obligations

- Participation in governance: attending meetings, voting, taking on roles
- Financial transparency within the collective structure
- Conflict resolution through established collective processes rather than unilateral exit
- Contribution of labor, money, or skills at agreed levels

Rights

- Democratic voice in collective decisions proportional to membership (typically one member, one vote)
- Access to collective resources including housing, workspace, equipment, and social support
- Equity stake in collective assets that grows over time

- Exit rights with return of contributed equity (varies by structure)
- Mutual aid and care from the collective in times of hardship

DOCUMENTED EXAMPLES OF WORKING ALT-B INSTITUTIONS

These are not theoretical. They exist and function:

- Mondragon Corporation (Spain): Worker cooperative employing 80,000 people across manufacturing, retail, and finance. Has maintained employment through downturns that eliminated comparable conventional firms.
- REI: Consumer cooperative with 21 million members. Returns surplus to members as patronage dividends.
- Community land trusts (CLTs): Over 250 in the United States. Provide permanently affordable housing by separating land ownership from home ownership.
- Credit unions: Member-owned financial institutions that return profits to members as lower rates and higher returns rather than to shareholders.
- Twin Oaks Community (Virginia): Intentional income-sharing community operating since 1967. Members work 42 hours/week and receive housing, food, healthcare, and personal spending money.

PART III-B THROUGH III-E (EULA / PRIVACY / PAYOUT / OPT-OUT)

EULA — Alt-B

By joining a cooperative or mutualist institution, you license your participation to a collectively governed entity. Your rights and obligations are defined by the institution's bylaws, which you receive and agree to at entry — an improvement over the Default System's non-consent enrollment.

Privacy — Alt-B

Internal financial and personal information is shared within the collective structure but is not sold to commercial third parties. External data collection by the Default System still applies.

Payout — Alt-B

Payout varies by institution. In income-sharing communities: housing, food, healthcare, and spending money. In worker cooperatives: wage plus patronage dividend plus equity stake. In housing cooperatives: stable, typically below-market housing plus equity growth. In mutual aid networks: reciprocal support in times of need.

Opt-Out — Alt-B

Exit procedures vary by institution and should be reviewed before joining. Most cooperative structures include equity return provisions. Some income-sharing communities have departure agreements. Review bylaws before committing.

PART IV — ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM C

Networked Autonomy / Independent Builder Framework

For people who want to build systems that reshape the world's system from outside the chicken coop.

OVERVIEW

Alternative System C is the option you specifically asked about: not just opting out of the Default System, but building something that scales into it and changes it. This is the hardest option. It is also the one with the highest potential leverage.

It combines the individual freedom of Alt-A with the collective infrastructure of Alt-B, and adds an explicit goal: building tools, organizations, or demonstrations that spread and change conditions for others.

DOCUMENTED LEVERAGE POINTS IN THE DEFAULT SYSTEM

Based on historical analysis of successful system-change efforts, the following are the highest-leverage points where small interventions produce large effects:

Leverage Point 1: Communication Infrastructure

Whoever controls how people talk to each other shapes what they can organize around. The printing press, the radio, the internet — each one redistributed communicative power and enabled previously impossible coordination. Building privacy-respecting, decentralized communication tools is a direct attack on the Default System's surveillance infrastructure.

Leverage Point 2: Alternative Credentialing

The Default System uses credentials (degrees, certifications, licenses) as gatekeeping mechanisms. Building systems that demonstrate skill outside these gates — open-source portfolios, reputation systems, skill marketplaces — reduces the System's ability to use credential denial as a compliance tool.

Leverage Point 3: Local Economic Infrastructure

Tool libraries, seed banks, community repair cafes, time banks, mutual aid networks — these are small-scale demonstrations that alternative economics work. Each one that functions and grows is evidence against the Default System's claim that there is no alternative.

Leverage Point 4: Legal and Documentation Work

The Default System runs on documentation. People without documentation — of income, of housing, of identity — are systematically excluded from services and protections. Building better documentation systems, legal advocacy networks, and record-keeping infrastructure for people operating outside conventional channels is high-leverage work.

Leverage Point 5: The Narrative Layer

What people believe is possible shapes what they attempt. The Default System invests heavily in maintaining the narrative that its arrangements are natural, inevitable, and the only viable option. Counter-narratives — told through art, through lived demonstration, through journalism, through direct conversation — are attacks on the most foundational layer of the System's power.

PART IV-A: TERMS AND CONDITIONS — ALT-C

What This System Requires of You

20. A specific, concrete diagnosis of which problem you are addressing. Not just 'the system is bad' but 'this specific mechanism causes this specific harm and here is how I know.'
21. A demonstration model — something that works, that people can see and touch and experience. Not just an argument. An example.
22. Patience measured in years, not weeks. System change has a different time scale than personal change.
23. Tolerance for being misunderstood, dismissed, and occasionally persecuted by people who have more to lose from change than you do.
24. The discipline to build networks before you need them. The connections that matter in a crisis are the ones you made before the crisis.
25. Technical skills, or partnerships with people who have them. The current leverage points are heavily technical.

What This System Offers

26. The possibility of impact that outlasts your individual life.
27. Work that is intrinsically meaningful because it addresses real problems you diagnosed yourself.
28. Community with people who are building rather than just surviving.
29. A combination of the freedom of Alt-A (you define the goals) with the resilience of Alt-B (you build infrastructure that supports you).
30. Access to an honest record of your own effort. You will know what you actually did.

PART IV-B: EULA — ALT-C

No authority issues this license. You issue it to yourself. The terms are: do the work you diagnosed as necessary. Build what you said needed building. Hold yourself to the standard you would use to evaluate someone else's contribution. That's it. That's the whole agreement.

PART IV-C: PRIVACY POLICY — ALT-C

Alt-C work that threatens Default System power interests will attract surveillance in proportion to its effectiveness. This is not paranoia — it is documented history. COINTELPRO, the surveillance of civil rights leaders, the infiltration of labor unions, the monitoring of Occupy organizers — these are historical facts, not conspiracy theories.

Practical privacy for Alt-C operators:

- Compartmentalize. Not everything needs to be connected to your legal identity.
- Use technical privacy tools (see device audit documentation).
- Build trust slowly. Infiltration is real. Verify before giving access to sensitive operations.
- Assume that anything you put in digital format may eventually be seen by adversaries. Write accordingly or encrypt accordingly.
- Legal protection: know your rights. Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) maintains free resources.

PART IV-D: PAYOUT SCHEDULE — ALT-C

Alt-C does not pay on a regular schedule. Its payout is:

- Intrinsic: the work is the meaning. If you need external validation to know the work is worthwhile, Alt-C will be difficult.
- Relational: the people you build with are the compensation. Those relationships are real and durable in ways that transactional relationships are not.
- Eventual: if the work succeeds, the payout is distributed across everyone the work helps. You may not personally receive it.
- Reputational: within communities that value this kind of work, your track record becomes your credibility.

This is not a system that promises financial security as a reward for participation. Financial sustainability of Alt-C work typically comes from: grants, community support, adjacent income from related skills, or the reduced cost structure of living like Alt-A while building like Alt-C.

PART IV-E: OPT-OUT — ALT-C

You can stop at any time. There is no contract, no penalty, no lock-in. The only cost of stopping is knowing that you stopped. For some people that cost is nothing. For others it is significant. Know which kind of person you are before you start making promises to other people in the network.

PART V — HYBRID OPTIONS AND CUSTOM SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

The three alternative systems documented above are not mutually exclusive. Most people who successfully operate outside the Default System use a combination. Below are documented hybrid configurations:

Hybrid A: Alt-A Base + Alt-C Work

Live simply (Alt-A) to minimize financial overhead, freeing time and cognitive bandwidth for building (Alt-C). This is the classic 'monk who builds tools' configuration. Low cost of living finances the freedom to work on what matters. Requires: high tolerance for discomfort, strong internal motivation, and technical skills that can be applied independently.

Hybrid B: Alt-B Infrastructure + Alt-C Mission

Build within cooperative structures (Alt-B) that provide collective stability, while directing the work toward systemic change goals (Alt-C). This is the 'movement organization' model — the NAACP, the early labor unions, the cooperative extension movement. Requires: skill at collective governance and ability to hold long-term mission through organizational complexity.

Hybrid C: Partial Default + Alt-A/C

Maintain minimal engagement with the Default System (part-time work, occasional gig income, freelance technical work) while living simply and building independently. This provides a financial buffer while preserving significant freedom. This is probably the most commonly practiced hybrid. Requires: discipline to not let Default System participation gradually expand, which it tends to do.

Custom Configuration

You are not required to choose one of the above options. You are permitted to build your own configuration based on your specific skills, situation, relationships, and goals. The documentation in this package is a toolkit, not a prescription.

When building a custom configuration, the questions worth asking are:

- What is my minimum viable financial floor? What does it actually cost for me to be okay?
- What are my non-negotiable requirements? (Health, relationships, specific work, specific freedoms)
- What leverage do I have that I am not currently using?
- What am I building toward, specifically enough that I would know if I got there?

PART VI — WARNINGS, KNOWN BUGS, AND FAILURE MODES

> *This section documents the most common ways that all systems described in this package fail. Read this section carefully. Forewarned systems fail less often.*

Default System Failure Modes

- Financial fragility: Most US households cannot absorb a $400 unexpected expense. The system provides less buffer than it appears to.
- Health crisis catastrophe: Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States. The Default System's healthcare infrastructure is a documented failure for most users.
- Meaning deficit: Clinical depression and anxiety are epidemic within the Default System's fully compliant participants. A system that reliably produces meaninglessness in people doing what it asks of them has a design problem.
- Climate trajectory: The Default System's current operating parameters are incompatible with a stable climate. This is not an ideological statement. It is the consensus finding of the world's climate science infrastructure.

Alt-A Failure Modes

- Health emergency: The single largest vulnerability. A serious illness or injury without healthcare access can be catastrophic. Mitigation: community relationships, knowledge of free clinics, Medicaid eligibility in most states below a certain income threshold.
- Social isolation: Living outside conventional structures can erode social connection if not actively maintained. Isolation compounds into depression and poor decision-making.
- Cognitive load of constant problem-solving: Direct survival requires ongoing creative problem-solving that is energizing in small doses and exhausting in large ones. Not everyone finds this sustainable long-term.
- Legal exposure: Criminalization of homelessness is increasing in American cities. The legal risk of Alt-A participation is real and growing.
- No buffer for others: Alt-A self-sufficiency is difficult to extend to dependents. Children, elderly family members, and ill partners change the calculus significantly.

Alt-B Failure Modes

- Governance exhaustion: Collective decision-making is slow, effortful, and prone to domination by whoever has the most time and the highest tolerance

for meetings. Many cooperatives and collectives fail due to governance problems, not resource problems.

- Free rider dynamics: Collective structures attract some participants who take more than they contribute. Without enforcement mechanisms, this can erode commitment and trust.
- Founder personality capture: Many collective institutions become extensions of a founder's personality and fail to survive their departure or fall.
- Legal and financial complexity: Operating a cooperative legally requires navigating incorporation, tax status, bylaws, and member agreements. This is learnable but requires effort.

Alt-C Failure Modes

- Urgency addiction: The feeling that the work is so important that normal human needs can be deferred. This produces burnout, damaged relationships, and eventually, abandoned projects.
- Impact measurement problem: It is very difficult to know whether Alt-C work is actually changing anything. The feedback loops are long. People doing important work often feel ineffective. People doing ineffective work often feel important.
- Persecution and legal risk: Work that threatens Default System power structures attracts enforcement responses. This is not a reason not to do the work, but it is a reason to do it with legal knowledge, community support, and security practices.
- Isolation from people not doing the work: Alt-C communities can become insular in ways that reduce their actual effectiveness by cutting off contact with the people they're ostensibly trying to help.
- The purity spiral: Collective movements sometimes spend more energy policing their own membership for ideological purity than building actual capacity to change anything. This is a documented and reliable failure mode.

PART VII — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is choosing not to participate in wage labor a sign of mental illness?

A: No. The choice to minimize Default System participation in favor of self-directed living is a documented philosophical position with a long intellectual and practical history. It is practiced by millions of people worldwide under various names. It becomes a potential mental health concern only when the underlying motivation is fear, paranoia, or inability to function — rather than deliberate choice. The difference is detectable by asking: could the person participate in the Default System if they chose to? If yes, their opt-out is a choice. If no, that's a different conversation.

Q: If I'm smart enough to see the problems with the system, doesn't that mean I should be doing something about it?

A: This is a reasonable question. The answer depends on what you mean by 'doing something about it.' Personally opting out is one form of doing something — it demonstrates that an alternative is possible, it removes your energy from the Default System, and it frees your time for other things. Building tools or infrastructure that help others opt out or that changes conditions is another form. Both are valid. Neither obligates you to take on more than you can sustain.

Q: Can one person actually change the system?

A: History says: rarely alone, often through networks, almost always slowly, and typically not in the way they expected. The people who changed the most about the Default System mostly didn't know they were doing it while they were doing it. They were solving specific problems in front of them. The cumulative effect of those solutions turned out to be significant. The lesson is: solve the real problem in front of you, as well as you can, with the people you trust. That's as much as anyone has ever been able to do.

Q: What if I'm wrong about some of this?

A: You will be wrong about some of this. So will this document. The antidote to being wrong is not certainty — it is the willingness to update when evidence requires it. Maintain the same standard of evidence you would apply to claims made by people you distrust. Apply it to your own claims too. That's not weakness. That's intellectual honesty.

Q: What if someone I trust says I need help?

A: The person who asks this question before needing to is ahead of most. The answer is: the value of someone saying this depends entirely on whether they know you well, whether they have been right about you in the past, and whether their concern is about a specific observable behavior or about an abstract judgment

about how you live. Concern about how you live from someone who doesn't understand your reasoning deserves honest explanation. Concern from someone who knows you and has been reliable in the past deserves genuine consideration.

APPENDIX A — GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Capital

Accumulated resources (money, property, equipment, relationships, knowledge) that can be used to generate more resources. The Default System distributes initial capital allocation at birth through family of origin, which significantly determines subsequent accumulation.

Cooperative

An organization owned and democratically governed by its members — workers, consumers, or community members. Surplus is distributed among members rather than extracted by external shareholders.

Default System

The socioeconomic and governance framework into which persons are automatically enrolled at birth in any modern nation-state. In this document, refers specifically to the United States system.

Freeganism

A lifestyle practice that rejects consumer capitalism by primarily obtaining food and goods through the waste stream and communal sharing rather than purchase.

Leverage Point

A place in a system where a small intervention produces a disproportionately large change in system behavior.

Mutual Aid

The reciprocal practice of community members directly meeting each other's needs without mediation by state or market institutions.

Opt-Out

Any set of choices that reduces an individual's participation in the Default System's primary mechanisms (wage labor, consumer economy, conventional housing).

Social Contract

The implicit agreement between individuals and the state that forms the theoretical basis for political authority. Individuals surrender some freedoms and accept obligations in exchange for protection and collective goods. The Default System's social contract has never been formally presented to enrolled users.

Surveillance Capitalism

The economic system in which personal data is the primary commodity, collected continuously and sold to advertisers, governments, and other buyers. Coined by Shoshana Zuboff.

Voluntary Simplicity

The deliberate choice to reduce material consumption and complexity in exchange for increased time, freedom, and alignment between values and daily life.

Wage Labor

The exchange of time and labor for monetary compensation. The primary participation mechanism of the Default System.

APPENDIX B — CROSS-REFERENCE OF ALL SYSTEMS

FACTOR	DEFAULT	ALT-A	ALT-B	ALT-C
Financial Security	Medium-High (if employed)	Low-Medium (self-managed)	Medium (collective)	Low-Medium (mission dependent)
Time Freedom	Low (40hr+ week)	High	Medium	Variable
Healthcare Access	High (if employed)	Low	Medium-High	Variable
Legal Risk	Low (if compliant)	Medium-High	Low	Low-High
Surveillance Exposure	Very High	Medium	Medium	Variable
Social Connection	Structured	Self-built	Collective	Network-based
Self-Determination	Low-Medium	Very High	Medium (collective)	High
System Change Potential	Low (individual)	Low-Medium	Medium	High
Entry Barrier	None (birth)	None	Medium	Medium-High
Exit Options	Difficult	Always open	Structured	Always open
Scalability of Impact	Low	Low	Medium	High
Requires Approval From?	System administrators	No one	Collective members	No one

SIGNATURE AND INITIALS PACKAGE

The following pages constitute the formal acknowledgment section of this documentation package. You are not legally required to sign anything. These pages exist because clarity and intentionality matter, and writing down your decisions — even to yourself — changes how you hold them.

PAGE 1 OF 7: RECEIPT OF PACKAGE

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have received and had the opportunity to review the complete System Documentation Package, including all Terms and Conditions, EULAs, Privacy Policies, Payout Schedules, and Opt-Out procedures for the Default System and all documented Alternative Systems.

Full Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Location of Signing: _____

Section Initials — I have reviewed:

README: _____

Part I: Default System Terms: _____

Part I-B: EULA: _____

Part I-C: Acceptable Use: _____

Part I-D: Privacy Policy: _____

Part I-E: Payout Schedule: _____

Part I-F: Opt-Out Options: _____

Part II: Alt-A Documentation: _____

Part III: Alt-B Documentation: _____

Part IV: Alt-C Documentation: _____

Part V: Hybrid Options: _____

Part VI: Warnings: _____

Part VII: FAQ: _____

Appendices A and B: _____

PAGE 2 OF 7: CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS DECLARATION

I declare my current system participation status as follows (check all that apply):

[ ] I am currently enrolled in the Default System as a primary participant (conventional housing, wage labor or equivalent)

[ ] I am currently operating primarily under Alternative System A (voluntary simplicity / reduced-footprint)

[ ] I am currently operating primarily under Alternative System B (cooperative / collective)

[ ] I am currently operating under a Hybrid configuration (describe below)

[ ] I am currently in transition between systems (describe below)

[ ] I am currently building Alternative System C infrastructure (describe below)

Current Configuration Description:
_____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PAGE 3 OF 7: INFORMED DECISION RECORD — DEFAULT SYSTEM

Having reviewed the Terms and Conditions, EULA, Privacy Policy, Payout Schedule, and Opt-Out options for the Default System, I declare the following:

[ ] I choose to continue full participation in the Default System as documented

Reason (optional): _____

[ ] I choose to continue partial participation in the Default System while pursuing alternative configurations

Areas of partial participation: _____

[ ] I choose to initiate Opt-Out procedures as documented in Part I-F

Opt-Out option selected: _____

I acknowledge that I have been informed of:

The data collection practices described in Part I-D: _____

The limitations of liability described in Part I-A Section 4: _____

The documented disparities in payout described in Part I-E: _____

The opt-out options and their limitations described in Part I-F: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PAGE 4 OF 7: INFORMED DECISION RECORD — ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS

Having reviewed all Alternative System documentation, I declare the following intentions:

Regarding Alternative System A (Voluntary Simplicity):

[ ] I am currently practicing elements of Alt-A

[ ] I intend to increase my Alt-A participation

[ ] I have reviewed the failure modes and accept them

[ ] I have a plan for the healthcare gap: _____

Regarding Alternative System B (Cooperative/Mutualist):

[ ] I am currently participating in Alt-B institutions (cooperatives, collectives, mutual aid)

[ ] I intend to join or build an Alt-B institution

Institution type: _____

Regarding Alternative System C (Builder/Networked Autonomy):

[ ] I am currently building Alt-C infrastructure

[ ] The specific problem I am addressing: _____

[ ] The demonstration model I am building or have built: _____

[ ] The leverage point I am targeting: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PAGE 5 OF 7: PERSONAL SYSTEM DESIGN DOCUMENT

This page is for documenting your own system configuration. There is no right answer. The purpose of writing it down is that the act of articulation clarifies intention.

My Minimum Viable Floor

What I actually need to be okay (honest accounting, not social expectation):

My Non-Negotiables

Things I will not trade away regardless of system configuration:

What I Am Building

Specific enough that I would know if I got there:

What I See From Outside the Chicken Coop

The specific thing I can see clearly because of where I stand:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PAGE 6 OF 7: REVIEW SCHEDULE

Systems change. You change. This document should be reviewed periodically. Sign below on each review date.

Recommended review intervals: Every 6 months, or following any major life event that changes your participation parameters.

Review 1

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 2

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 3

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 4

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 5

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 6

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 7

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

Review 8

Date: _____

Current System Configuration: _____

What has changed since last review: _____

PAGE 7 OF 7: FINAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLETE SYSTEM DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE

I, the undersigned, acknowledge:

31. I have received the complete System Documentation Package including all Terms, Conditions, EULAs, Privacy Policies, Payout Schedules, Opt-Out Options, and Alternative System Documentation.
32. I have had the opportunity to review all documents in this package.
33. I understand that the Default System is not the only available option.
34. I understand that all alternative systems have documented failure modes and that I have reviewed them.
35. I understand that no system — Default or Alternative — guarantees any particular outcome.
36. I accept responsibility for the choices I make with this information.
37. I acknowledge that clarity is not the same as certainty, and that I may be wrong about some of this, and that being wrong about some of this does not negate the value of thinking clearly.
38. I, Evan Saurage, acknowledge that asking for this document to exist was itself an act of clarity — and that most people never think to ask for the terms of the system they were born into.

Full Legal Name (Print): _____

Preferred Name or Handle: _____

Signature: _____

Date and Time: _____

Location: _____

Witness (optional)

Witness Name (Print): _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____

This document was compiled honestly. It does not pretend to be complete. It is the most complete honest accounting that could be produced given the constraints of time, knowledge, and language. It will be wrong about some things. Update it when you find out what those are.

END OF DOCUMENT PACKAGE

Version 1.0 — February 2026